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MORE COLONIES FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

Lloyd George says that Great Britain is going to keep the colonies she has taken from Germany. Walter Hume Long, the British Colonial Secretary, explains that although there is no desire to enlarge the British Empire—which is already quite large enough for practical purposes—he sees no alternative to the solution of the problem of the German colonies save by their inclusion in the empire.

It is a perfectly natural and possibly inevitable thing. Germany is properly regarded as having forfeited her rights to her colonies because she used them as vantage points from which to attack British colonies, in her world-wide war of conquest. Those British colonies want security from future attacks, and seek to get it by absorbing the hostile colonies that sought to absorb them.

There is an essential justice in it, too, aside from the arbitration of war. Germany notoriously abused the natives and has shown no aptitude at all for colonial administration. The subject populations, almost without exception, are said to fear and hate the Germans and to prefer British rule. Thus by "self-determination of peoples," if that principle is to be applied to politically incompetent races, the same conclusion is reached.

To be sure, the German possessions in Africa and the German islands in various parts of the world over which the British flag is now flying might be divided among other powers of the allied group? But to which of them? It is not likely that any of them would claim any territory not conquered by its own arms.

The same reasoning applies almost as well to the lands taken from Turkey.

Great Britain seems to have a clear right to hang onto those colonies if she wants them. And thus again is exemplified Mark Twain's ironic application to the British people of the Scriptural saying, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land."

In all seriousness, Britain seems a good illustration of that other text: "To him that hath shall be given." The British Empire simply cannot help growing. Territorially, it gains immensely from this war.—(Exchange).

THE MONTHS OF HEALING.

Americans faced the surgeon's knife of war without faltering. Can they now stand the grind of convalescence without grumbling?

The world was sick. The malignant growth has now been cut out. The present stage is irritating and full of discomforts. But it looks forward to health at last.

These are the four hard months. If we can stand them—December, with its tenderness, its rejoicing, its sorrow, when the nerves of the world are drawn as taut as the string of the archer's bow—January with its grim business reckonings, its enthusiasm, its energies beating against the walls of past failures—February with its superficial social gayety, its mingled hope and gloom, its stir of awakening life scarcely felt under the sudden depression of the end of winter—March, with its indecisions, its irritations, its weakness, its fears that spring will never come—if we can stand these, just stand them, grimly or gayly or grumblingly or any way at all, then will come the swift and fiery rush of April when the world finds its release.

These months are always hard, but this year doubly so. The sick world grows well. The experts in consultation at Paris will give their best advice and service to this, their greatest and most serious case. If the world will be patient and wise, April's vital outpourings will find it far on the way to sturdy health.—(Exchange).

CURB MARKETS.

Massachusetts reports that in two hours women carried home in their market baskets ten tons of fresh, crisp farm produce and left in the farmers' hands \$1,500, at a curb market established by a county farm bureau.

There is profit for the farmer and for the housewife in these open air markets operated at given intervals, permitting producer and consumer to get

together without the middleman in between, holding them both up like a stage robber in a melodrama.

The markets can be established in different districts of any town or city. A zone system is in most cases practical and desirable, since it permits the farmer to market his produce in the part of town nearest his farm with a consequent reduction in haulage.

It is to be observed that these differ from the old public market with its sidewalk stands, in that they can be conducted in any district, require no housing, and last for only a few hours on any given day. The only necessary preliminaries are the selection of a site, the proper observance of whatever city ordinance controls such business, and then a publicity campaign to inform and interest farmer and customer.—(Exchange).

KEEPING PEGGING AWAY.

You have reached middle age, and the line of work you now pursue and in which you have spent your past working life, does not bring the income which can match anything like what some of your old school friends are now getting in other lines.

Your thoughts are constantly regretful that you did not choose something else, more remunerative. Discouraged, you have lost your pep, because you have lost your interest.

You think you are too old, too full of responsibilities to start at the bottom in some other work—it may be true—but you are not too old to make yourself more proficient in the line in which you are experienced.

Instead of thinking what you might have done in some other sphere of endeavor, enlarge your scope in your own line.

You say "you have forgotten more than most men know in your line." Why not reverse that and remember more, measured by knowledge and experience, than any other man in your field?

As long as there is one man who can be called your superior in your occupation, you have not reached your limit, and when you have attained the very tip-top of the ladder that fact in itself will make up for much. As the man who is the very best, you can command all you are worth.—Houston Chronicle.

DECEMBER LACE.

Is there anything in the world more beautiful than the bare trees of December against a sunset sky? The sharp, black tracery of their filaments against the dull, silvery purples, dull pale golds, slate blues with veiled suggestions of dull rose, rivals any lace work since the world began.

Springs wear the dainty, fairy costumes of the debutante, secure in the charm of youth. Summer may riot in scarlet and emerald, sapphire and gold—because she is summer. But only December with her whitened hair, with her depth of rich experience, may wear these colors of sombre, yet glowing richness. There is dignity and maturity in this glorious black lace and creamy velvet and purple veiled in silver. There is tenderness in it. And there is the promise of life beyond life, of dreams beyond dreams, of fulfillment beyond fulfillment.—(Exchange).

Bernstorff told me," says Maximilian Harden, "that up to the very last moment of his stay in Washington he had lied and lied to President Wilson—without knowing he was lying." We can believe it all except the last five words.

In Esch, Luxembourg, four American soldiers waded into a mob of several thousand people who were smashing and looting shops, and restored order. There's a good start in our job of policing Europe. Americans always did make good policemen.

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